



NEWS RELEASE

A Century of
Water for the West
1902-2002

**Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, California**

MP-03-036
Jeffrey S. McCracken
916-978-5100

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 7, 2003

WATER 2025 CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR SACRAMENTO

The third of eight scheduled regional consulting conferences on the Secretary of the Interior's "Water 2025: Preventing Crises and Conflict in the West" will be held in on Thursday, July 10, 2003, in Sacramento, California.

Hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation, the conference will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West at 2200 Harvard Street. The conference will begin at 9 a.m. and will end at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Bennett Raley will provide an overview of Water 2025. Raley will be available for interviews during the 9:30 break.

The purpose of the Water 2025 conferences is to expand the dialogue on ways of preventing the chronic water supply problems many communities will face in the coming decades. Interior Secretary Gale Norton began this process at a West-wide conference in Denver on June 6. The Sacramento conference will feature a panel discussion, comprised of individuals representing various water user interests. Members of the panel will discuss innovative methods for dealing with contentious water issues at the local level.

The conference is open to the public, but registration is required, as attendance is limited. A web site has been set up to facilitate easy registration. The web address is www.usbr.gov/mp/water2025/docs/registration.html. Those who do not wish to register electronically can print a copy of the registration form, fill it out, and fax it to Sammie Cervantes at 916-978-5114. A copy of the registration form can be requested by contacting Ms. Cervantes at 916-978-5104. The web site also includes the agenda.

Water 2025 is a blueprint for Interior and its Federal partners to work with state and local officials, water user groups, environmental organizations, tribes and other in a strategic, focused approach to predicting, preventing, and alleviating water supply crises and conflicts. More information on Water 2025, including a feedback form for those interested in commenting, is available on the Department of the Interior's web site at www.doi.gov/water2025.

Note to editors and news directors: If you plan to attend, please register. Name badges will be supplied.

#####